AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1. (currently amended) A method of inhibiting B-cell growth, or immunoglobulin production, or both, in ~~an animal~~ mammal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of ~~a composition selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;~~

~~(b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and~~

~~(c)~~ an anti-BAFF-R antibody ~~homolog~~.

Claims 2 - 3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A method of treatment of an autoimmune disease comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of ~~a composition selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;~~

~~(b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and~~

~~(c)~~ an anti-BAFF-R antibody ~~homolog~~.

5. (currently amended) A method of treating hypertension in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of ~~a B-cell growth inhibitor selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;~~

~~(b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and~~

~~(c)~~ an anti-BAFF-R antibody ~~homolog~~.

6. (currently amended) A method of treating renal disorders in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of ~~a B-cell growth inhibitor selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;~~

~~(b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and~~

~~(c)~~ an anti-BAFF-R antibody ~~homolog~~.

7. (currently amended) A method of treating B-cell lympho-proliferate disorders comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of ~~a B-cell growth inhibitor selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;~~

~~(b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and~~

~~(c)~~ an anti-BAFF-R antibody ~~homolog~~.

Claims 8 - 10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A method according to claim[[[s]]] 1 ~~to 7~~, wherein the anti-BAFF-R antibody binds to a BAFF-R polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of

a) an isolated native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;

b) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;

c) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;

d) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof; and

e) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof;

f) any one of (a) - (e), wherein the BAFF-R polypeptide is soluble.

12. (currently amended) A method according to claim[[[s]]] 1 ~~to 7~~, wherein the anti-BAFF-R antibody ~~homolog~~ is a monoclonal antibody.

Claims 13 - 16. (canceled)

17. (original) A method of inhibiting inflammation comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody specific for a BAFF-R or an active fragment thereof.

18. (original) A method of inhibiting inflammation comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody specific for a BAFF-R or an epitope thereof.

Claims 19 - 21. (canceled)

22. (new) The method of any one of claim 1, wherein the mammal is human.

23. (new) The method of any one of claim 1, wherein the anti-BAFF antibody is immunospecific to antigenic determinants of a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:1.

24. (new) The method of any one of claim 1, wherein the anti-BAFF antibody is recombinantly produced.

25. (new) The method of any one of claim 1, wherein the anti-BAFF antibody is humanized.

26. (new) The method of any one of claim 1, wherein the anti-BAFF antibody is chimeric.

27. (new) The method of any one of claim 1, wherein the anti-BAFF antibody comprises human constant domains.

28. (new) The method of any one of claim 1, wherein the anti-BAFF antibody a F(ab')2 fragment.